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Identical letters dated 28 October 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Tajikistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour, in my capacity as Chairman of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) Group in New York, to transmit herewith the texts of the Declaration on Countering Islamophobia and the Final Communique of the Annual Coordination Meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the OIC Member States, held at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 24 September 2010 (see annexes I and II).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annexes circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 9, 13, 14, 15, 16, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 24, 29, 33, 36, 37, 38, 39, 43, 48, 51, 52, 53, 54, 60, 61, 63, 64, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 87, 93, 97, 100, 103, 107, 117, 118, 119, 120, 122 (s), and 124, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Sirodjidin **Aslov**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex I to the identical letters dated 28 October 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Tajikistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Declaration by the Annual Coordination Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of OIC Member States on Countering Islamophobia United Nations Headquarters, New York — 24 September 2010

We, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation of the Member States of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, participating at the Annual Coordination Meeting of the OIC Foreign Ministers, held in New York on 24 September 2010 under the motto of "Countering Islamophobia" declare the following:

While considering the importance of dialogue among civilizations and expansion of relations and cooperation between the Islamic World and other cultures and civilizations, we reiterate our commitment to continue efforts in engaging with the West in projecting the true tenets of Islam, and countering common challenges. However, we express profound regret and deep concern at the increasing acts of Islamophobia, growing trend of intolerance and hatred towards Muslims, and mounting number of acts of violence against Muslims in some Western societies.

We are of the view that the culture of peaceful coexistence and inter-communal and interreligious tolerance that the international community is trying to achieve, is under threat from marginal and extremist fanatics and from the pervasive xenophobic discourse of a minority of extremist politicians who, for the sake of domestic political gains, exploit the socio-economic difficulties faced by their societies to foment hatred against Islam and Muslims through negative stereotyping and defamation.

We strongly believe that defamation of Islam geared towards denigrating and dehumanizing Muslims, their beliefs and sacred personalities, insults the deep-seated religious feelings, undermines their dignity and violates their fundamental human rights thus threatening the multicultural fabric of the societies. We reject all acts and attempts of distortion to associate Islam with terrorism. Nothing could have been farther from the truth. Islam is a religion that implies peace by its very nomenclature. Such stereotyping leads to discrimination and poses grave and multidimensional challenges to global as well as regional peace, security and stability.

While we support all initiatives aiming at promotion of moderation, tolerance and encouraging dialogue for shunning violence and extremism, we call upon the international community to make collective efforts to prevent incitement to hatred and discrimination against Muslims and to take effective measures to discourage negative stereotyping of people on the basis of religion, faith or race. We invite the international community both in terms of policy and practice to stand against all xenophobic campaigns of fear-mongering and discriminatory measures that endanger peaceful coexistence among cultures, civilizations and nations and create a negative environment conducive to violence and violation of human rights of individuals and communities. We also call upon the international community to make concrete measure with a view to fostering an environment of respect for all religions.

We call for a global awareness on the dangerous implications of the rise of Islamophobia on world peace and security and call on the leaders of the international community to demonstrate their collective political will to address the issue with all urgency. We emphasize the need to develop, at the UN, including the HRC, a legally binding institutional instrument to promote respect for all religions and cultural values and prevent intolerance, discrimination and the instigation of hatred against any group or followers of any religion.

We call upon the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights to set up an observatory at her office aimed at monitoring and documenting acts that led to incitement to religious hatred, hostility and violence.

With reference to the recent unfortunate episode pertaining to the "Burn a Koran Day", we express our appreciation for the strong and principled statements made by the US authorities as well as community and religious leaders and world leaders. We emphasize that inter-civilizational dialogue based on mutual respect and understanding amongst peoples should be effectively used for promoting human welfare and progress and for strengthening international peace and security, tolerance and global harmony.

We request the OIC Secretary General to continue his initiatives in order to effectively counter Islamophobia through discussions and deliberations at various international fora.

Enclosure I

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE OIC SIX-MEMBER COMMITTEE ON PALESTINE SUBMITTED TO THE ANNUAL COORDINATION MEETING OF FOREIGN MINISTERS OF OIC MEMBER STATES UN HEADQUARTERS - NEW YORK, 23 SEPTEMBER 2010

I. On 23 September 2010, the OIC Six-Member Committee on Palestine met at the United Nations Headquarters under the chairmanship of His Excellency Prof. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, Secretary-General of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference.

II. The meeting was attended by Their Excellencies the Foreign Ministers of the following Member States of the Committee:

The Islamic Republic of Pakistan
The Republic of Senegal
The Republic of Guinea
The State of Palestine
Malaysia
The Arab Republic of Egypt assisted in the Meeting as a guest.

III. The Secretary-General opened the meeting with a statement affirming the OIC's unwavering position on the cause of Palestine and Al-Quds Al-Sharif, and called for joining efforts to put an end to the escalating Israeli aggression against the Palestinian people.

IV. The Palestinian Minister of Foreign Affairs delivered a statement providing an exhaustive account on the situation in the Palestinian territories and the escalation of the Israeli aggression against the Palestinian people. His statement also contained an account of the grave situation in the Palestinian territories, particularly in Al Quds Al-Sharif, as a result of the on-going construction of the segregation wall, the settlement activities and the illegal Israeli measures and practices aimed at Judaizing the Holy City.

V. The committee members delivered statements affirming their States' support for the Palestinian rights and the unwavering Palestinian position. They demanded that the international community, particularly the members of the Quartet, assume responsibility in compelling Israel to end its

violations of the international law and aggressions against the Palestinian people. They also demanded that pressure be brought to bear on Israel to end its blockade of the Gaza Strip, cease all settlement activities and violations in the city of Al Quds, resume the peace process in line with the foundations on which it has been established, and implement the roadmap and the international resolutions on Palestine and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

VI. The Committee submitted the following recommendations to the Coordination Meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the OIC Member States:

1. The meeting **confirmed** all the resolutions on the question of Palestine, Al Quds and the Arab-Israeli conflict adopted by the Islamic conferences and Al Quds Committee.

2. The meeting **reaffirmed** the centrality of the cause of Al-Quds Al-Sharif for the Islamic Ummah, and the need to preserve its Arab-Islamic character and to defend the inviolability of the sacred Islamic and Christian sites. It **reiterated** its condemnation of the Israeli illegal and illegitimate measures aimed at altering the city's status, demographic structure and Arab-Islamic character, particularly through illegal colonial practices, including the settlement activities and the construction of the Apartheid wall within and around the city in order to isolate it from its Palestinian environment.

3. The meeting **reaffirmed** its principled support for the Palestinian people's right to national independence and the exercise of their sovereignty within their Palestinian State with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital. It **reaffirmed** once again the rights of Palestinian refugees by virtue of the international law and UN General Assembly Resolution 194 (III) adopted on 11 December 1948. The meeting **further reaffirmed** its solidarity with the Palestinian people in their struggle for self-determination.

4. The meeting **strongly condemned** the on-going Israeli illegitimate policies and practices in the occupied Palestinian territories, including Al-Quds Al-Sharif, the expulsion of Palestinians from Al Quds and the crime of demolishing Palestinian homes perpetrated by Israel all around the City of Al-Quds.

5. The meeting **affirmed** the illegitimacy of the Israeli measures in Al Quds Al Sharif aimed at annexing, judaizing and altering the demographic and geographic character of the city. The meeting **warned** against the dangerous excavation works carried out by Israel underneath the blessed Mosque of Al Aqsa. It **demanded** the international community, particularly the UN Security Council and UNESCO, to assume their responsibilities in compelling Israel to respect international law and to cease its illegal and illegitimate practices in the occupied city of Al Quds.

6. The meeting also **strongly condemned** Israel's illegal settlement policy and practices inside the Palestinian territories and the construction of the expansionist wall that has caused the confiscation of thousands of donums of land and the isolation of scores of Palestinian villages, towns and cities.

7. The meeting **called upon** the international community to face up to its responsibility in punishing Israel and its officials for committing the crime of aggressing the Freedom Flotilla, and in putting pressure on Israel to lift the blockade and end the closure of the Gaza Strip, and to remove the roadblocks that tear apart the Palestinian territories of the West Bank and block the movement of Palestinian citizens.

8. The meeting **condemned** Israel's defiance of the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice issued on 9 July 2004 and its non-compliance with the UN General Assembly Resolution ES-15/10 of 20 July 2004, as well as its persistence in constructing the wall in the Palestinian occupied territories, within and around East Jerusalem. Therefore, the meeting **renewed** its call for the respect of the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice and the implementation of Resolution ES-15/10, and **called upon** all States to impose punitive sanctions on the entities and companies contributing to the construction of the wall.

9. The meeting **called upon** Member States to take the necessary measures to ban any products of Israeli settlements from entering their markets in fulfilment of the obligations contained in international treaties, to prevent Israeli settlers from entering their territories, and to impose sanctions on the companies and bodies

contributing to the construction of the wall and to the other illegal acts in the Palestinian occupied territories.

10. The meeting **stressed** the need to implement the relevant international resolutions on Palestine and to abide by the principles and resolutions of the international law, including the law on the protection of human beings, particularly the provisions of the Geneva Convention on the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War adopted on 12 August 1949.

11. The meeting **reaffirmed** its support for comprehensive peace based on the relevant United Nations resolutions, including UN Security Council Resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973), 1397 (2002) and 1515 (2003), as well as the agreed principles which call upon Israel to withdraw fully from the Palestinian occupied territories, including Al-Quds Al-Sharif and the other Arab occupied territories. In this respect, the meeting **renewed** its support for the Arab peace initiative adopted by the 14th Arab Summit held in Beirut, Lebanon, in 2002 and welcomed the resolutions of the Arab Summits on the activation of this initiative in line with the political framework with the understanding that the current initiative will not remain on the table for long, and that its submission is contingent upon its acceptance by Israel. Similarly, the activation of this initiative is contingent upon Israel's fulfilment of its obligations within the framework of the fundamental terms of reference for the achievement of just and comprehensive peace.

12. The meeting **called upon** the international community and the international Quartet to make the necessary efforts to implement the provisions of the roadmap in order to fulfil its announced goals and purposes consistent with the international law. The meeting **expressed** its categorical rejection of the positions and measures that run counter to the rules of international legitimacy and the references of the peace process. It **demanded** all States and international organisations not to recognize or deal with any assurances or promises undermining the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

13. The meeting **expressed** grave concern at the tragic conditions of the Palestinian and Arab detainees in Israeli prisons and detention

centres. It **demanded** the international community, represented by the international humanitarian and human rights organisations to expose Israel's inhumane practices in its prisons and to exert pressure on Israel to release all prisoners detained in its prisons.

14. The meeting **called for** a more efficient participation of the United Nations in ensuring the success of the Middle East peace process. It **affirmed** the continued unwavering responsibility of the United Nations toward the cause of Palestine until a just and comprehensive solution is reached that guarantees ending the occupation and enabling the Palestinian people to exercise their inalienable and imprescriptible national rights, including their right to return, to self-determination, and to the establishment of their independent State on their national soil with Al Quds Al Sharif as its capital.

15. The meeting **emphasized** the need to continue to ascertain that the Israeli credentials presented to the United Nations do not include the territories occupied by Israel since 1967, including East Jerusalem.

16. The meeting **renewed** its demand to States and international institutions and bodies to abide by the international resolutions on Al Quds as an integral part of the Palestinian and Arab territories occupied in 1967; and also **called on** them not to participate at any meeting or activity that serves Israel's objectives of consolidating its occupation and annexing the Holy City.

17. The meeting **condemned** Israel's attempt to change the geographical names of areas under its occupation, and **requested** the international community not to give in to the Israeli attempts aimed at forging the geography of the occupied areas in flagrant violation of the international law.

18. The meeting **affirmed** the need to implement the UN Security Council Resolution 237 on the return of the displaced Palestinians, and UN General Assembly Resolution 194 on the return of the Palestinian refugees to their homes and properties as two fundamental foundations of a just and comprehensive settlement.

19. The meeting **affirmed** the continued responsibility of the United Nations Relief and Work Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) in performing its duties toward all Palestinian people wherever they are by virtue of the relevant UN General Assembly resolution. It **called on** the Member States of the Organisation to support the UNRWA in order to enable it to continue to render its services to the Palestinian refugees.

20. The meeting **renewed** its demand to the Member States to abide by the resolutions adopted by the Islamic Summit Conferences and the Islamic Conferences of Foreign Ministers on the cause of Palestine and the Arab-Israeli conflict while voting at the United Nations and in international fora.

21. The meeting **decided** to mandate the Secretary-General to take the necessary measures to intensify contacts and coordination on the cause of Palestine and the Arab Israeli conflict between the OIC, the League of Arab States, the African Union, the Non-Aligned Movement, the European Union and the United Nations and its specialized agencies; and **expressed** appreciation for these institutions' positions of solidarity and their support for the just struggle of the Palestinian people.

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Enclosure II

Report of the Meeting of the OIC Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir Presented to the Annual Coordination Meeting of Foreign Ministers of the OIC Member States UN Headquarters, New York - 22 September 2010

The Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir met on the 22nd of September 2010 at the Ministerial level on the sidelines of the Annual Coordination Meeting in New York.

The meeting was opened by H.E. Professor Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, the OIC Secretary General, who reaffirmed, once more, full support of the OIC for and solidarity with the people of Jammu and Kashmir. Referring to the latest round of violence perpetrated by the Indian forces against Kashmiri people, the Secretary General briefed the meeting on the OIC's position in this regard and called on India once more to end its human rights violations in the area.

The meeting then listened to the statements made by distinguished Members of the Contact Group in which they reiterated their continued support to the people of Jammu and Kashmir and called for peaceful resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute.

Statements were also made by the True Representatives of the Kashmiri people.

This report is hereby submitted to the Annual Coordination Meeting for its consideration.

Enclosure III

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE OIC CONTACT GROUP ON SOMALIA NEW YORK, 22nd SEPTEMBER 2010

The OIC Contact Group on Somalia met at Ministerial level on the 22nd of September 2010 on the sidelines of the Annual Coordination Meeting of Foreign Ministers in New York. The meeting reviewed the latest developments in Somalia and received a briefing from the Somali Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Fisheries and Marine Resources, Prof. Abdurrahman Adan Ibrahim, and the Secretary General of the OIC. It also heard interventions from other members of the Contact Group. During deliberations on the ways and means that could contribute to the restoration of durable peace to the country, the meeting agreed on the following:

i. The meeting reaffirmed its respect for the unity, stability and territorial integrity of Somalia and urged all countries to do the same.

ii. The meeting condemned all acts of insurgency and violence targeted against the TFG, its functionaries and innocent persons stressing that such criminal acts were contrary to the noble values of Islam and called on the militants to drop their weapons and join the peace process.

iii. The meeting reaffirmed its full support for the TFG under President Sheikh Sharif Ahmed and encouraged it to continue its efforts to achieve national reconciliation under the Djibouti Peace Agreement which remains the only basis recognized internationally for a comprehensive peaceful settlement of the conflict in Somalia.

iv. The meeting commended the initiative of the OIC to open a Humanitarian Coordination Office in Mogadishu and urged other Somali partners to enhance their presence in the country and to intensify their engagement with the TFG.

v. The meeting requested the Member States to increase their assistance to the TFG in its peace building efforts during the remaining period of the transition and reminded the international community to live up to its obligations by intensifying its assistance to the TFG, especially in the security sector and by redeeming all its pledges as contained in the Istanbul Declaration of 23 May 2010. In this regard, it commended Turkey and the UN for jointly organizing the Istanbul Conference on Somalia. It also expressed its deep appreciation to the AU, IGAD and AMISOM for their sacrifices and concrete support to the TFG.

Enclosure IV

REPORT OF THE OIC CONTACT GROUP MEETING ON SIERRA LEONE NEW YORK - 22 September 2010

The OIC Contact Group on Sierra Leone met at the Ministerial level on the sidelines of the Annual Coordination Meeting of the OIC Foreign Ministers in New York on the 22nd of September 2010 and reviewed the latest situation in the country.

1. The meeting expressed its satisfaction at the progress made by democracy, the rule of law and good governance in Sierra Leone and urged its political leaders and people to shun violence and political intolerance, and to develop a national culture of peace, dialogue and participation.

2. The meeting acknowledged the important progress made by Sierra Leone in the areas of infrastructure development, education and agriculture throughout the country under the able leadership of H.E. President Ernest Bai Koroma, despite the economic challenges facing Sierra Leone.

3. The meeting expressed its thanks and appreciation to the State of Qatar, Malaysia, Brunei Darussalam and the Islamic Solidarity Fund for the financial support extended to the OIC Assistance Fund for Sierra Leone.

4. The meeting invited all stakeholders to come up with concrete proposals aimed at giving a new lease of life to the OIC Assistance Fund for Sierra Leone which has been unable to cope with the pressing socioeconomic needs due to its scant financial resources exhausted since December 2006.

5. The meeting expressed its thanks to the international community, to DFID/UK and the OIC Member States and financial institutions which played an important role during the OIC-DFID international donors' conference held in London in November 2009.

6. The Meeting took note of the progress of the Capacity Building Program for Oil Palm Plantation Project in Sierra Leone and the vigorous efforts undertaken by the Sierra Leone Government to overcome the 9 issues identified by the Malaysia – IDB Assessment Mission undertaken on 1 – 10 November 2009, to facilitate the implementation of the Rescue Plans of the project.

Enclosure V

Report of the Meeting of the

OIC Contact Group on Iraq

Submitted to the Annual Coordination Meeting of Foreign Ministers of the OIC Member States United Nations Headquarters - New York, 23 September 2010

1 - The OIC Contact Group Meeting on Iraq was held on the sidelines of the Coordination Meeting of Foreign Ministers of OIC member states in New York on 23/9/2010, and reviewed the latest developments in Iraq.

2 - The meeting was chaired by Secretary-General of the Organization of Islamic Conference, and attended by delegations from Azerbaijan, Egypt, Iraq, Pakistan and Senegal.

3 - The Meeting recalled all the resolutions of the Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) on Iraq, which underlined the need to safeguard Iraq's sovereignty, political independence and national unity, territorial integrity and non-interference in internal affairs and condemning violence and terrorism in all its forms.

4 - The meeting commended the efforts of the Iraqi government to put an end to violence and terrorism through the reconciliation plan aimed at giving the opportunity for different components of the political, religious and ethnic groups of the Iraqi people to participate peacefully in the political process and related efforts related to the reconstruction of Iraq. The meeting stressed the need to promote national dialogue, reconciliation and broad-based political participation to ensure the country's unity, security and stability and peace.

5 - The Meeting commended the elections that took place on 7 March 2010 and on which the Iraqi people expressed determination to opt for democracy in running the country and stressed the importance of forming a strong Iraqi government, involving all sections of the Iraqi people specially that Iraq is facing major challenges to ensure security and reconstruction.

6 - The Meeting requested the General Secretariat to endeavour to support Iraq in the phase of reconstruction and development and in line with the common areas of cooperation agreed in the joint statement issued following the official visit of His Excellency the Secretary General who led a senior officials delegation from the General Secretariat, subsidiary organs, specialized agencies and affiliated institutions, to Iraq in the period from 23 to 25 February 2009. The Meeting stressed the need to continue to

hold regular meetings between the Iraqi State and the General Secretariat of the OIC and its various organs, in order to implement the joint communiqué.

7 – The Meeting recalled the adoption by the Organization of Islamic Conference in a successful precedent of the Makkah Al-Mukaramah Document on the situation in Iraq on October 20, 2006.It underlined the need for the General Secretariat to follow up the implementation of this important document within the framework of the Organization's contribution to national reconciliation through the promotion of unity and coherence between Sunnis and Shiites to work to build a stable Iraq, secure, democratic, prosperous and unified Iraq.

8 – The meeting condemned acts of violence that took place recently in Iraq. It also expressed support for the efforts made by the Iraqi government to put an end to the wave of violence and defeat terrorism through a reconciliation plan aimed at giving the opportunity for different components of the political, religious and ethnic groups of the Iraqi people to participate peacefully in the political process and embark on the reconstruction of Iraq.

9 – The Meeting welcomed the outcome of all expanded conferences of the neighbouring countries of Iraq and urged neighbouring countries of Iraq to continue their cooperation with the Iraqi government.

10 – The Meeting expressed its appreciation to OIC Member States, which maintained its diplomatic presence in Iraq, hailed the declaration of many Muslim countries to appoint ambassadors to Iraq, and called on all other members of the organization to open or reopen their embassies in Iraq. The Meeting also called upon all Member States to write off their debts to Iraq, as part of their contribution to the reconstruction of Iraq. In this respect, the Meeting commended the member States which have written off their debts to Iraq.

11 – The Meeting commended the Secretary-General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference for all endeavours and initiatives which he undertakes in order to ensure peace and stability in Iraq.

Enclosure VI

Report of the OIC Contact Group on Bosnia and Herzegovina UN Headquarters, New York -22 September 2010

1- The OIC Ministerial Contact Group on Bosnia Herzegovina convened on 22 September 2010 in New York.

2- The OIC Secretary General HE. Prof Ekmeleddin Ihasnoglu and other members of the OIC Contact Group addressed the meeting.

3- The meeting was briefed by the representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina on the current situation in Bosnia Herzegovina.

4- The meeting discussed in depth the developments in Bosnia Herzegovina and reiterated the OIC support to preserve unity, territorial integrity, sovereignty and international personality of Bosnia and Herzegovina, within internationally recognized borders, as a fully functional and self-sustainable state capable of carrying out its powers and fulfilling its international obligations without absolute blockade mechanisms as well as its multi-ethnic, multi-cultural and multi-religious structure. The OIC Contact Group, in this respect, emphasized the importance of the decision making powers of the Bosnia and Herzegovina legal structures of the proper functioning of the state and stresses the need to tackle any existing mechanisms that may hamper theses powers, as part of the constitutional reform process.

5- The meeting condemned recent open call for secession of one part of Bosnia and Herzegovina coming from the Highest State-level officials of the Serb nationality and considers these statements to be a threat to the peace and stability in Bosnia and Herzegovina and in the region.

6- The OIC Contact Group, as part of the international community, carefully monitoring the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina and recalling the report of its previous meetings that took place on 12 October 2010 and 9 November 2010 in Turkey, reiterated its determination to contribute to the international efforts to ensure Bosnia and Herzegovina's advance towards integration with the European and Euro Atlantic structures.

7- The meeting expressed its deep concern over inadequate implementation of the key elements of the Dayton Peace Agreement, particularly relating to the building of the state institutions, regulatory framework, and return of refugees & displaced persons of their origin.

8- The meeting observed that the lack of implementation of some key elements of the Dayton Peace Agreement have been found to obstruct the process of the reconstruction, democratization, and the reintegration of the state of Bosnia and Herzegovina . The meeting expressed its concern that these violations,

particularly relating to the right of the refugees to return, have solidified blockades and prevented the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina from rebuilding a multi-cultural society. The meeting stressed the need for more efforts and work to implement these elements and to fully respect other key aspects of Dayton, particularly regarding Bosnia and Herzegovina's rights over state property that had been confirmed in Dayton and subsequent international agreements.

9- The OIC Contact Group called on the international community to take these issues in serious consideration as part of the constitutional reform process.

10- Since the 5+2 objectives and conditions (state defence property) rule of law, financial adequacy , status of Brcko , signing of the Stabilization and Association Agreement with the EU decision by the Peace Implementation Council on stable political situation) identified by the Peace Implementation Council and its February 2008 meeting for the closure of the Office of the High Representative have not been fully implemented and the constitutional reform package by the international community have not been endorsed by Bosnia and Herzegovina stakeholders , the OIC Contact Group underlined that in early step from the transition of the Office of the High Representative(OHR) to the EU Special Representation(EUSR) should be carefully considered to allow for the functioning of the Bosnia and Herzegovina central state satisfactorily.

11- The OIC Contact Group underlined the importance of the rule of law as part of any settlement impacting on the future of the country and invites all local and international actors to focus on the need to fully implement the existing legal obligations when presenting solutions for the future.

12- The meeting reaffirmed that the role of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia in bringing justice to the region is of significant importance in preventing the reoccurrence of any tragic incidents in the future in this sensitive region.

13- The meeting called upon the OIC Secretary General to actively follow up the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina within the implementation of the resolution adopted by the 37th meeting of the Council of Foreign Affairs held in Dushanbe. The meeting also called upon OIC Member States and OIC Financial institutions to contribute generously to the OIC Trust Fund for the Return of the Displaced Persons in Bosnia and Herzegovina to enable the Fund to continue its reconstruction and development activities in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

14- The meeting expressed once again its thanks and appreciation to the OIC Secretary General for reactivating the OIC Contact Group on Bosnia and Herzegovina and called for the regular convening of the Contact Group to continue the OIC support to the Bosnian people.

Annex II to the identical letters dated 28 October 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Tajikistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

FINAL COMMUNIQUE
OF THE ANNUAL COORDINATION MEETING OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE OIC MEMBER STATES
UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS - NEW YORK
24 SEPTEMBER 2010

1. The Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Member States of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) held their Annual Coordination Meeting at the United Nations Headquarters in New York on 24 September 2010, under the chairmanship of His Excellency Mr. Hamrokhon Zarifi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan. The Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General attended the Meeting.

2. The Meeting reaffirmed the determination of the OIC Member States to strengthen cooperation with the United Nations in accordance with its Charter in addressing current numerous global threats and challenges. The Meeting reiterated that the United Nations remains an indispensable global mechanism for the promotion of a shared vision for a more peaceful, secure and prosperous world. The Meeting expressed satisfaction over the increasing scope of relations between the OIC and the UN and the regular contacts between the two Secretaries-General. In this context, the Meeting welcomed the outcome of the bi-annual meeting on cooperation between the OIC and the UN which was held at the Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture's (IRCICA's) premises in Istanbul in June 2010.

3. The Meeting urged all Member States to actively participate at the highest level, in the 12th Session of the Islamic Summit Conference to be held in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, on 16 and 17 March 2011.

4. The Meeting expressed its gratitude to the OIC Secretary-General for his role in promoting and defending the interests and causes of the Islamic World, and in raising the profile of the OIC as a significant player in the global scene.

5. The Meeting, while reaffirming its full commitment to the new vision, mission and mandate of the OIC as contained in the OIC Charter and the Ten-Year Programme of Action, as well as all previous resolutions adopted at the level of the Summit and the Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM), recognized that daunting challenges continue to face the Islamic World in the 21st century.

6. The Meeting reaffirmed the centrality of the cause of Al-Quds Al-Sharif for the entire Islamic Ummah, and emphasized the Palestinian, Arab and Islamic nature of Occupied East Jerusalem and the need to defend the sanctity of Islamic and Christian holy places. It reiterated its strong condemnation of Israel, the occupying Power, for its persistent aggression on Islamic and Christian holy places in Al-Quds Al-Sharif. In this regard, the Meeting expressed grave concern about and condemned in particular Israel's illegal and intensifying colonization measures, including ongoing settlement activities, transfer of more Israeli settlers and construction of the Wall in and around the Holy City, illegal excavations beneath Al-Aqsa Mosque, as well as its intensifying demolition of Palestinian homes, eviction of Palestinian families from the City, confiscation of more Palestinian land, homes and properties, revocation of Palestinian residency rights in the City, all aimed at

illegally de-populating the City of its Palestinian inhabitants. The Meeting called for urgent action to bring a complete halt to all illegal Israeli measures aimed at changing the demographic composition, character, geographic nature and legal status of the Holy City.

7. The Meeting commended the efforts made by His Majesty King Mohammad VI, Chairman of Al-Quds Committee and Bayt Mal Al-Quds in order to preserve the identity of the Al-Quds Al-Sharif and support the steadfastness of the Palestinian people in the Holy City.

8. The Meeting stressed that all such Israeli colonization measures in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, constitute flagrant breaches of international law, including the Fourth Geneva Convention, and relevant United Nations resolutions and blatant disrespect of the 9 July 2004 Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice (ICJ). The Meeting demanded that Israel, the occupying Power, immediately cease all settlement activities, and the construction of the Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem.

9. The Meeting condemned Israel's continued imposition of collective punishment upon the Palestinian people, including in particular the illegal blockade against the Gaza Strip, which has gravely impacted humanitarian conditions. The Meeting demanded that Israel immediately cease its unlawful collective punishment of the Palestinian people, including by completely lifting its blockade of the Gaza Strip. The Meeting also called for urgent action to advance the reconstruction of the Gaza Strip following the vast destruction caused by the condemnable Israeli military aggression of December 2008-January 2009, and, in this regard, reiterated the demand for serious follow-up measures to ensure accountability and justice for the crimes committed by the occupying Power against the Palestinian civilian population in the Gaza Strip.

10. The Meeting deeply regretted and strongly condemned the heinous Israeli military aggression on 31 May 2010 in international waters against the Gaza-bound convoy of humanitarian assistance "Freedom Flotilla", which resulted in the death of 9 innocent civilians and injury to many others, and emphasized the need to carry out a prompt, credible, independent, impartial and transparent international investigation of the Israeli attack in accordance with international standards. The Meeting welcomed in this regard the UN Secretary-General's establishment of a Panel of Inquiry as well as the Human Rights Council's Fact-Finding Mission towards establishing the facts of this deplorable incident and ensuring accountability.

11. The Meeting called for the urgent intensification of efforts by the international community, including the Quartet and particularly by the Security Council, to support and promote the resumption and early conclusion of peace process negotiations aimed at ending the occupation of the Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967, and the achievement of a just, lasting and peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine and the Arab-Israeli conflict as a whole, in accordance with international law and Security Council resolutions, 242 (1967), 338 (1973), 1397 (2002), 1515 (2003) and 1850 (2008), the Madrid terms of reference, the principle of land for peace, the Quartet Road Map and the Arab Peace Initiative, thus realizing the two-State solution for peace, and enabling the Palestinian people to exercise their inalienable rights, including their right to self-determination and sovereignty in their independent and viable State of Palestine, on the basis of the 1967 borders, with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital, and a just resolution to the plight of the Palestine refugees in accordance with General Assembly resolution 194(III) of 11 December 1948.

12. The Meeting strongly condemned Israel's policy of refusing to comply with Security Council resolution 497 (1981) concerning the occupied Syrian Golan and its policies of annexation, building of colonial settlements, confiscation of land, diversion of water sources and imposition of Israel nationality upon Syrian citizens. It also demanded Israel to completely withdraw from the occupied Syrian Golan to the June 4th 1967 lines in accordance with Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973), the principle of land for peace, the Madrid Peace Conference terms of reference and the Arab Peace Initiative, adopted by the Beirut Arab Summit on 28 March 2002.

13. The Meeting reaffirmed the need to compel Israel to comply forthwith with the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention on the Protection of Civilians in Times of War, dated 12 August 1949, and to apply them to the Syrian detainees in the occupied Syrian Golan. The Meeting also demanded Israel to release all Syrian detainees citizens of the Occupied Syrian Golan, taking into consideration that some of them have been detained for more than 25 years.

14. The Meeting condemned the decisions of the United States Administration to impose unilateral economic sanctions against Syria; it expressed its rejection of the so-called "Syria Accountability Act" and considered it null and void, and constituting a flagrant violation of the principles of international law, the resolutions of the United Nations and its Charter, as well as the resolutions of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, and blatantly taking the side of Israel. The Meeting expressed its solidarity with the Syrian Arab Republic and appreciated the Syrian position that calls to favor dialogue and diplomacy in the international relations in order to solve all disputes; it requested the United States of America to revisit its position with regards to this Act as soon as possible and to abolish all decisions related to this matter.

15. The Meeting reiterated its support for Lebanon to complete the liberation of all its territories, and insisted on the necessity of Israel's withdrawal from Sheba'a Farms, Kfarshouba Hills, and from the Lebanese part of Al-Ghajar village. It called for the strict and full implementation of Resolution 1701 (2006), and strongly condemned Israel's continuous violations of Lebanon's sovereignty, by land, sea, and air, including the spy networks implanted in Lebanon. The Meeting emphasized the right of Palestinian refugees to return to their homeland and rejected any form of resettlement. It valued the important role played by H.E. President Michel Sleiman, in chairing the sessions of the national dialogue. The Meeting took note of the ongoing activity of the Special Tribunal for Lebanon, and welcomed the efforts exerted to discover the truth about the assassination of Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri and his companions away from any politicization in such a way to bring about justice and establish peace and security in Lebanon.

16. The Meeting reiterated the need for a peaceful and negotiated settlement of all conflicts in the Islamic World. In this regard, the Meeting stressed the need for the Intergovernmental Group of Experts to continue to develop proposals on the future role of the OIC in maintaining security, peacekeeping and conflict resolution with a view to submitting further recommendations, particularly in the area of capacity building of Member States and the General-Secretariat. It further called for the intensification of the use of the good offices of the Secretary-General in proactive diplomacy especially through mediation and designation if required, of the high level envoys in consultation with the Member States on conflict situations and in accordance with the Charter.

17. The Meeting urged the Member States and the international community to continue their vigorous support and assistance to the people and Government of Afghanistan in fighting terrorism, counter the drugs problem, achieve security, stability, as well as comprehensive and sustainable

development, and welcomed in this regard the outcome of the International Kabul Conference of July 2010 containing the renewal of international community's commitments for a secure, prosperous and democratic Afghanistan and support for the transition to Afghan leadership through building the capacity of the Afghanistan National Security Forces and through strengthening the economic infrastructure of the country. The Meeting emphasized the importance of effectively involving the OIC in the efforts deployed to promote peace and development, ensure security and stability in Afghanistan and welcomed the decision to appoint a special OIC Permanent Representative for Afghanistan. The Meeting welcomed the Parliamentary elections held in Afghanistan on 18 September 2010 and expressed the hope that it would contribute to strengthen stability in the country.

18. The Meeting welcomed the Parliamentary elections that took place in the Republic of Iraq on 7 March 2010 and stressed the urgent need for the formation of an inclusive government, which will be based on a broad consensus, representing the balance reflected in the elections. The Meeting requested that the Secretariat of the OIC follow up the implementation of Resolution 1/37- POL, on the situation in the Republic of Iraq, adopted at the 37th Session of the CFM, held in Dushanbe, Republic of Tajikistan, from 18 to 20 May 2010.

19. The Meeting condemned the massive violations of human rights and the killing of Iraqis, Kuwaitis and the citizens of third countries by the former Iraqi regime in contravention of international law and international humanitarian law, and welcomed all measures taken by the Iraqi Government to prosecute the criminals.

20. The Meeting condemned the continued acts of terrorism and violence in Somalia. It also condemned piracy off the coast of Somalia. The Meeting reaffirmed its full support for the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) as the only internationally recognized government in Somalia. It welcomed the decision to open the OIC Coordination Office in Mogadishu on the basis of voluntary contributions and appealed to the Member States and the international community to intensify their assistance to Somalia especially in the security and humanitarian fields in line with the outcome of the recent Istanbul International Conference on Somalia held in May 2010 with a view to building the capacities of the TFG.

21. The Meeting expressed its full solidarity with the Sudan under the leadership of H.E. President Omar Hassan Ahmed Al-Bashir and renewed its unflinching support for the various endeavors to achieve genuine national reconciliation, lasting peace and stability within the context of a sovereign and united country. The Meeting reiterated the OIC principled position on the International Criminal Court's (ICC) indictment against the President of the Sudan and warned of its implications on the ongoing Darfur peace process in Doha. The Meeting welcomed the outcome of the OIC's donors' conference on the reconstruction and development of Darfur, convened in Cairo, the Arab Republic of Egypt, on 21 March 2010, under the co-chairmanship of the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Republic of Turkey and urged the Member States to also generously contribute to the forthcoming donors' conference for the development of East Sudan to be hosted by the State of Kuwait in December 2010.

22. The Meeting condemned the aggression of Armenia against Azerbaijan and called for the resolution of the conflict on the basis of respect for the territorial integrity and inviolability of the internationally recognized borders of the Republic of Azerbaijan. The Meeting also expressed its grave concern by forced demographic changes, interference with property rights, inadequate

protection of the cultural heritage and sacred sites in the Nagorno-Karabakh region and other occupied territories of Azerbaijan and reaffirmed in this regard its principled support to the efforts of Azerbaijan, including within the United Nations General Assembly, aimed at ensuring respect for international humanitarian law and international human rights law in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan.

23. The Meeting reaffirmed its principled support to the people of Jammu and Kashmir for the realization of their legitimate right to self-determination, in accordance with the relevant UN resolutions and aspirations of the Kashmiri people. It emphasized the need for full respect of human rights as well as importance of taking all requisite steps to provide relief and comfort to the Kashmiris. It further called upon India to allow international human rights groups and humanitarian organizations to visit Jammu and Kashmir.

24. The Meeting expressed concern at the recent and ongoing indiscriminate use of force and gross violations of human rights committed in Indian Occupied Kashmir (IOK) by Indian security forces which have resulted in killing scores of innocent and unarmed civilians as well as injuries to hundreds of others including women, children and elderly.

25. The Meeting commended the efforts of Pakistan and its readiness to engage with India to resolve all outstanding issues including Jammu and Kashmir dispute and urged the international community to play its due role to settle this long standing dispute on UN agenda for the overall improvement of the relations between Pakistan and India as well as to promote regional peace and stability.

26. The Meeting called upon the OIC Secretary-General to actively follow up the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina within the implementation of the resolution adopted by the 37th Session of the CFM held in Dushanbe. The Meeting also called upon OIC Member States and OIC financial institutions to contribute generously to the OIC Trust Fund for the Return of the Displaced Persons in Bosnia and Herzegovina to enable the Fund to continue its reconstruction and development activities in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Meeting urged all the parties in Bosnia and Herzegovina to exercise calm and restraint ahead of the general elections of 3 October 2010 and expressed its hope and expectation that the elections will be held in an orderly and peaceful manner, thus serving the emergence of the more conducive atmosphere for cooperation and progress.

27. The Meeting expressed its full and continued support to the unity, stability and security of the Republic of Yemen and denounced all attempts to impinge on its stability, unity and security.

28. The Meeting urged the Member States to support the Union of the Comoros by redeeming the pledges made during the Doha Conference and by making available to the Comoros the resources required to implement the socio-economic development programs.

29. The Meeting reiterated the unquestionable sovereignty of the Union of Comoros over the island of Mayotte. In this regard, the Meeting condemned and considered null and void the referendum of 29 March 2009, organized by the Government of France in the Comorian island of Mayotte that constituted a violation of the sovereignty of the Comorian State and of its territorial integrity and represents a grave breach of international law and relevant United Nations resolutions.

30. The Meeting urged the Member States to extend their financial, material and logistical support for the organization of general elections in Cote d'Ivoire in October 2010. The meeting also invited the OIC Member States, Islamic financial institutions and donors to extend their assistance for the reconstruction of Cote d'Ivoire and the rehabilitation of its economy.

31. The Meeting expressed its support to the on-going democratic process in the Republic of Guinea and called upon the Member States to continue to assist the country to achieve sustainable development.

32. The Meeting reaffirmed its full solidarity with the Republic of Djibouti in its territorial dispute with Eritrea. The Meeting welcomed the mediation efforts deployed by the Emir of Qatar to settle the border issue between Djibouti and Eritrea resulting in a Memorandum of Understanding and called upon both parties to engage in the mediation process fully and in good faith, to refrain from the use, or the threat of use, of force, to abide by their commitments in full and to comply fully with the provisions of relevant UN Security Council statements and resolutions.

33. Appreciating the Turkish Cypriot side's continuing efforts to reach a just and lasting comprehensive settlement in Cyprus before the end of 2010 as set out by the UN Secretary-General, the Meeting urged Member States to support the settlement efforts and strengthen effective solidarity with the Turkish Cypriot State by closely associating with them and by increasing and expanding their relations in various fields with a view to helping them materially and politically to overcome the inhuman isolation which has been imposed upon them.

34. The Meeting noted the continued progress made towards strengthening democracy overall in Kosovo. It expressed the continued interest of the OIC and its solidarity with the people of Kosovo. Stressing the importance of the stability in the whole Balkan region the Meeting acknowledged the content of the 22 July 2010 Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) that the declaration of independence of Kosovo does not violate international law. It further welcomed the resolution A/RES/64/298 adopted by consensus by the UN General Assembly and expressed full support for the process of dialogue in order to improve the lives of the people as well as cooperation between the Parties.

35. The Meeting strongly condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations committed by whomsoever and wherever, and reaffirmed its commitment to strengthen mutual cooperation in the fight against terrorism through inter alia, evolving an appropriate definition of terrorism by consensus, mutual exchange of information, capacity building and by addressing the root causes of terrorism such as prolonged unresolved conflicts, continued suppression and marginalization of peoples and denial of the rights of peoples to their self-determination in situations of foreign occupation.

36. The Meeting condemned and rejected all attempts to associate Islam or any Islamic country, any race, religion, culture or nationality with terrorism.

37. The Meeting took note of the adoption of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in 2006 and reaffirmed its status as a living document to be updated and called for the subsequent review mechanism of the strategy to take account the root causes of terrorism and draw distinction between terrorism and the struggle for the right of self-determination by the people under foreign occupation and colonial or alien domination. The Meeting recognized that foreign occupation, state

terrorism, political and economic injustice and denial of the right of self-determination to people are the main root causes of terrorism. The Meeting recognized that a time-structured approach, envisaging short, medium, and long term objectives, to the implementation of the strategy could best accommodate the contentious issues related to the strategy.

38. The Meeting reiterated that the struggle of peoples plying under the yoke of foreign occupation and colonialism, to exercise their right to self-determination and to accede to national freedom, does not in any way constitute an act of terrorism.

39. The Meeting considered that the financing of terrorism is a matter of grave concern to the international community and recognized that the payment of ransoms to terrorist groups constitutes one of the main sources of financing of terrorism. The Meeting urged the Member States to cooperate for banning the payment of ransoms claimed by terrorist groups.

40. The Meeting welcomed with appreciation Tunisia's initiative calling for an international conference under the auspices of the United Nations, to prepare a code of conduct to combat terrorism.

41. The Meeting noted the High Level Meeting on "Revitalizing the work of the Conference on Disarmament (CD) and taking forward Multilateral Disarmament Negotiations" on 24 September 2010 in New York, and called for a renewed determination towards urgently achieving, in a balanced manner, the mutually reinforcing goals of nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation in all its aspects.

42. The meeting believed that disarmament efforts should be promoted in an equitable and balanced manner so as to ensure the right of each State to security and to ensure that no individual State or group of States may obtain advantages over others at any stage. At each stage the objective should be undiminished security at the lowest possible level of armaments and military forces.

43. In this context, the Meeting called for an early convening of the Fourth Special Session of the UN General Assembly on Disarmament (SSOD-IV). The Meeting also emphasized the imperative of promoting multilateral diplomacy in resolving disarmament and non-proliferation concerns, and, in this context, underlined that treaty-based multilateral institutions established under the auspices of the United Nations are the sole legitimate bodies to verify and ensure compliance with relevant international agreements.

44. While taking note of the 2010 NPT Review Conference's "Conclusions and Recommendations for Follow-on Actions" on the Middle East, the Meeting urged all parties directly concerned to take the practical and urgent steps required for establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East in accordance also with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations, and warned against the dire consequences of the continuing rejection of Israel to accede to the Treaty of the Non-Proliferation of the Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and to place promptly all its nuclear facilities under the full scope safeguards of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

45. The Meeting welcomed, with appreciation, the Joint Declaration signed in Tehran on 17 May 2010, by the Foreign Ministers of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Turkey and Brazil on the exchange of nuclear fuel. It strongly called on the international community to support the Joint Declaration and

to build up on the positive atmosphere created thereafter for future comprehensive agreements on all aspects of the issue.

46. The Meeting expressed its deep concern over the continued imposition of economic sanctions by certain powers as tools of political or economic pressure against some OIC Member States, with a view to preventing these countries from exercising their right to decide of their own free will, their own political, economic and social systems. It reaffirmed that economic and financial measures should not be used as tools for political coercion and that under no circumstances should people be deprived of their own means of subsistence and development. It called upon the OIC Groups in New York and Geneva to coordinate and raise the issue under appropriate agenda items and resolutions to highlight its negative impact on Member States.

47. The Meeting urged Member States to implement Resolution No. 41/37-POL on coordination and voting patterns of Member States at the United Nations and other international and multilateral fora.

48. The Meeting reviewed the current activities of the OIC towards addressing development challenges of its member countries, including the implementation of the OIC trade preferential system and establishment of the various poverty alleviation funds. The Meeting commended the ongoing partnership between the OIC and the relevant agencies of the United Nations, particularly, the mission of the COMCEC-FAO Task Force on food security and agricultural development and similar efforts aimed at attaining the Millennium Development Goals. It, therefore, called for support of other international partners and stakeholders for the promotion of its development programmes on transportation, tourism and industrial development, agriculture and energy fields. The Meeting welcomed the current emphasis on enhancing the role of regional economic blocs in the realization of the economic objectives of the OIC Ten-Year Programme of Action.

49. The Meeting recalled the final documents adopted in the second phase of the World Summit on the Information Society, held in Tunisia in 2005, and reiterated the importance of their implementation and follow-up, aiming at bridging the digital gap between developing countries and industrial countries.

50. The Meeting commended the efforts of the Republic of Tajikistan in strengthening the implementation of the International Decade for Action "Water for Life", 2005-2015 and welcomed the initiative of the Republic of Tajikistan to declare the year 2012 – as an International Year of Water Diplomacy, in order to undertake further coordinated efforts on sustainable use and integrated management of water resources at national, regional and international levels.

51. Recognizing that addressing the root causes of persistent and increasing social and economic inequalities remains a significant challenge to fostering a more peaceful, prosperous and sustainable future, the Meeting reaffirmed the need for a New Global Human Order aimed at reversing growing disparities and inequalities between rich and poor, both among and within countries. In this regard, the Meeting looked forward to the report of the UN Secretary-General based on resolution 62/213 assessing the implications of inequality for development during the Sixty-fifth session of the UN General Assembly.

52. The Meeting, while considering the importance of dialogue among civilizations and expansion of relations between the Islamic World and other cultures and civilizations, reiterated the commitment

to continue the efforts in engaging with the West in projecting the true image of Islam. The Meeting commended the Secretary-General for his active role in furthering cooperation between the OIC and the UN Alliance of Civilizations. It urged the Secretary-General to work closely with the UN Secretary-General and High Representative for Alliance of Civilizations towards the success of the UN Alliance of Civilizations and called on the Member States to sustain and enhance their strong support for the Alliance.

53. The Meeting commended the efforts of the UN, UNESCO, ISESCO and Member States in implementing activities within the international Year of Rapprochement of Cultures in 2010, declared by the United Nations on the initiative of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

54. The Meeting reiterated the need to counter religious and sectarian extremism, refrain from accusing Islamic schools of jurisprudence of heresy, emphasize dialogue among them, strengthen balance, moderation and tolerance, and ensure adherence to the fundamental methodology of fatwa whereby only those determined by their schools of Islamic jurisprudence to be eligible for such issuance may do so. The Meeting also welcomed the ongoing efforts in this regard, including the Amman Message and the International Islamic Conference held in Amman in late July 2005.

55. The Meeting asserted that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent, interrelated in nature, taking into consideration the significance of national and regional particularities, and the various historical, cultural and religious backgrounds. The Meeting emphasized the necessity for the international community to address all human rights issues in an objective, impartial and non-selective manner. The Meeting called for the necessity to consider all human rights in their global conception and in all their civil, political, social, economic, and cultural facts within the framework of international cooperation and solidarity, and within the framework of international Human Rights law and relevant international human rights instruments.

56. The Meeting expressed opposition to the practice of submitting country specific resolutions on human rights situations which are selectively targeting developing countries and OIC Member States. It reaffirmed that this practice is one of the main reasons that transforms the work of human rights bodies into an extremely political exercise rather than contributing to the advancement of the cause of human rights.

57. The Meeting, while recalling the adoption of Resolution No. 33/35-POL and reiterated by Resolution No. 37/37-POL of 37th Session of CFM held in Dushanbe, welcomed the celebration of the 5th of August of every year as the "Islamic Human Rights and Human Dignity Day" which coincides with the adoption of the Cairo Declaration of Human Rights in Islam, and requested the OIC Member States and the General Secretariat to observe this auspicious day that should be taken as an opportunity to take concrete measures to reinforce human rights and move it to a higher plane of dialogue, cooperation, education and awareness raising according to Islamic teachings and values. The Meeting emphasized that the Islamic World will strive to realize this vision through effective and comprehensive action, in conformity with its own divine values and principles.

58. The Meeting condemned the mounting trend of Islamophobia and systematic defamation of Islam as well as discrimination against Muslims including measures like the ban on constructions of minarets, and other discriminatory measures that incite religious hatred. The Meeting called upon the international community to exert efforts to prevent incitement to hatred and discrimination

against Muslims and to take effective measures to combat the defamation of religions and negative stereotyping of people on the basis of religion, faith or race. The Meeting requested the Secretary-General to continue the OIC initiatives in order to effectively counter Islamophobia through discussions and deliberations in various international fora. The Meeting called for a global awareness on the dangerous implications of the rise of Islamophobia on world peace and security and called on the international community to demonstrate its collective political will to address the issue with all urgency.

59. The Meeting expressed its appreciation to the positive position of the US Federal Government and the city of New York with regard to the construction of an Islamic Center in Lower Manhattan. The Meeting also recognized the strong effort of other religious organizations in standing strongly against the heinous act of burning the Holy Koran.

60. The Meeting expressed its satisfaction at the timely actions undertaken by the Observatory at the General Secretariat and the Secretary-General personally in monitoring and countering Islamophobic incidents. It commended the Observatory for its Annual Report on Islamophobia.

61. The Meeting attached utmost importance to the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of expression, as stipulated in international human rights law instruments. It further recalled that international human rights law provides that the exercise of the right to freedom of expression carries with it special duties and responsibilities and therefore may be subject to certain restrictions provided by law and necessary for respect of the rights or reputations of others, and for the protection of national security or public order, or public health or morals. The Meeting further stressed the need to prevent the abuse of freedom of expression and freedom of press for insulting Islam and other divine religions and the necessity for ensuring that the right to freedom of expression should be exercised by all, in particular the media, with responsibility and in accordance with the law.

62. The Meeting welcomed the adoption of the OIC Strategy to broaden support for its resolution on "Combating defamation of religions" at the 37th Session of the CFM held in Dushanbe and expressed satisfaction on the continued efforts of the OIC Groups in Geneva and New York towards achieving a consensus on this resolution. It underlined in this regard the importance of the effective coordination between the two Groups. The Meeting further welcomed the decision of the OIC Group in Geneva to incorporate a detailed Action Plan to combat defamation of religions in the resolution while fully respecting the core interests of the OIC.

63. The Meeting commended the Secretary-General for taking the initiative of convening a two day Brainstorming Session of a Panel of Eminent Persons on the OIC Sponsored Resolution on 'Combating Defamation of Religions' at the IRCICA premises in Istanbul from 4 to 5 July 2010, which examined the various aspects of the Resolution with a view to broadening international support for the resolution. The Meeting reiterated the urgency of enhanced coordination with regard to the procedure as well as the substantive content of the Resolution – particularly among the General Secretariat and the OIC Groups in New York and Geneva.

64. The Meeting stressed the utmost importance of the true spirit of solidarity, unity and joint action by OIC Member States on matters of vital concern to the OIC, and in this regards reaffirmed that Member States must vote as a bloc in favor of the resolution of "Combating defamation of

religions" of the Human Rights Council, Third Committee, and the United Nations General Assembly.

65. **The Meeting** noted, in this context, that the Group's work is particularly laudable with respect to its efforts to deploy collective and intensive efforts to enable the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council (HRC) to take concrete measures for the respect and protection of human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, the occupied Syrian Golan and the occupied parts of Lebanon; to place two crucial issues for the OIC, namely, the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, the occupied Syrian Golan and the occupied parts of Lebanon, and the incitement to racial and religious hatred, in particular, its contemporary manifestation - i.e. the defamation of religions, at the top of the permanent agenda of the General Assembly and the HRC. The Group has also worked zealously to promote the laudable tenets of Islam i.e. respect and tolerance for all, as central elements for any pluralistic and human rights friendly society.

66. **The Meeting** welcomed the adoption of resolution No. 2/37-ORG of the 37th Session of the CFM concerning the adoption of the Statute of the Organization of Women's Development, based in Cairo, and urged the Member States to expedite the ratification procedure on the Statute.

67. **The Meeting** commended the OIC General Secretariat for the establishment of the Department of Family Affairs in implementation of the Ten-Year Programme of Action.

68. **The Meeting** extended its gratitude to His Excellency Mr. Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, President of the Republic of Tunisia, for his initiative, adopted unanimously in December 2009 by the UN General Assembly, to proclaim the year 2010 an International Youth Year and to organize a world youth conference, under the auspices of the United Nations. The Meeting invited the OIC Member States to participate actively in all activities related to the Year and to the United Nations Conference on Youth.

69. **The Meeting** commended the efforts exerted by the Secretary-General in supporting the causes of the Muslim communities in non-OIC Member States, and urged him to continue those efforts in this regard, in the implementation of the relevant OIC Summit and CFM resolutions within the established principle of respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the States to which they belong in accordance with international law and international agreements in general.

70. **The Meeting** called upon the Member States to monitor closely the problem encountered by the Muslim community in Bulgaria concerning the usurpation of their right to elect their religious leader. The Meeting strongly emphasized that induction of Nedim Gencev as the Chairman of the Supreme Muslim Council against the will of Muslim community is unacceptable and constitutes direct violation of minority rights.

71. **The Meeting** expressed its full solidarity with the Muslims in Greece in general, and the Turkish Muslim Minority in Western Thrace, in particular, who are an integral part of the Islamic World and whose basic rights and freedoms are defined and protected by multilateral and bilateral treaties and conventions to which Greece is a party. The Meeting called upon Greece to take all necessary measures to respect the rights and identity of the Turkish Muslim Minority.

72. The Meeting commended the partnership between the OIC and the Global Polio Eradication Initiative. It called for the strengthening of laws aimed at preserving the rights of children to enjoy and attain the highest possible standards of mental and physical health. The Meeting further appealed to the Member States to coordinate their environmental policies and positions in international fora so as to prevent any adverse effect of such policies on their economic development.

73. The Meeting commended the efforts made by the Humanitarian Affairs Department of the OIC General Secretariat (ICHAD) in accordance with the constituent document of ICHAD to alleviate the sufferings of the needy people in different OIC Member States struck by disasters and calamities which effectively demonstrates the spirit of solidarity and Muslim fraternity within the Islamic Ummah and invited the OIC General Secretariat to pursue its humanitarian action in coordination with the Member States and to give increasing attention to assist the affected populations through reinforced partnership relations with the relevant United Nations organs, agencies, international Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and NGOs accredited to Member States working in the humanitarian field.

74. The Meeting expressed its deep sympathy with the Islamic Republic of Pakistan over the devastating floods affecting the country and appealed to the Member States of the OIC to generously and urgently contribute towards the alleviation of the plight of the flood victims in the country.

75. The Meeting invited the OIC Secretary-General to consider, in coordination with the Member States, taking necessary steps towards timely establishment of an OIC Special Emergency Fund to respond to natural disasters in the Member States as well as a rapid Response Coordination Committee to deal with such disasters. The Meeting called upon the Member States to contribute to this Fund on a voluntary basis.

76. The Meeting expressed appreciation for all the efforts towards early establishment of the Independent Permanent Commission on Human Rights.

77. The Meeting emphasized the need to develop, at the United Nations, including the Human Rights Council, a legally binding international instrument to promote respect for all religions and cultural values and prevent intolerance, discrimination and the instigation of hatred against any group or followers of any religion.

78. The Meeting expressed its gratitude to the OIC Secretary-General for the work done by the General Secretariat to prepare draft Rules of Procedure for granting Observer Status to States in accordance with the Charter of the Organization and urged the Intergovernmental Group of Experts to expedite its finalization.

79. The Meeting expressed appreciation and full satisfaction for the laudable collective efforts of the OIC Groups in New York and Geneva to coordinate, harmonize and streamline the positions of the OIC Member States in line with the OIC Charter, Summit and ministerial resolutions and declarations as well as to deploy collective and intensive efforts to pursue the Human Rights Council to pronounce itself in an objective and forthright manner on all human rights issues.

80. The Meeting reaffirmed the principled position of the OIC that where there are OIC Member States candidates for senior United Nations positions, or for membership of the main and other UN bodies, including the Security Council, ECOSOC, and the General Assembly subsidiary bodies, the OIC will support them, and urged the Member States to make the necessary arrangements towards agreeing on one candidate in the event of having multiple candidacies for the same post from the OIC Member States.

81. The Meeting welcomed the inauguration of the new OIC premises in New York and expressed appreciation for the performance of the Permanent Observer Mission of the OIC to the United Nations in New York in discharging its duties in conformity with the resolutions of the OIC Summit and Ministerial Conferences.

82. The Meeting noted with deep concern the continued difficulties faced by the Permanent Observer Mission of the OIC to the United Nations in New York due to the absence of diplomatic status of the Mission. Recognizing the important role of the Permanent Observer Mission to the United Nations in New York, the Meeting once again urged the Government of the United States of America, as the host country, to extend full diplomatic status to the Mission. The Meeting expressed appreciation for the efforts of the previous Chairs of the OIC Group for taking up the issue on behalf of the Ambassadorial Level Committee in New York and further requested the current Chair of the OIC Group to pursue the issue with the host government.

83. The Meeting adopted the reports issued by:

The OIC Six Member Committee on Palestine (Annex-I)
The OIC Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir (Annex-II)
The OIC Contact Group on Somalia (Annex – III)
The OIC Contact Group on Sierra Leone (Annex-IV)
The OIC Contact Group on Iraq (Annex-V)
The OIC Contact Group on Bosnia and Herzegovina (Annex-VI)